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**DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My correct residence, post office address and citizenship are stated below next to my name.

I believe myself to be the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original and first joint inventor (if more than one name is listed below) of the subject matter which is disclosed and claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**"A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING FIREWALL PROCESSING"**

The specification of this subject matter:

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- x was filed on March 3, 2000;
- x was assigned serial No. not yet assigned
- ☐ which was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified patent application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No
Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No
Number	Country	Month/Day/Year Filed	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Number	Filing Date
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Application Number	Filing Date
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in these prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Issued, Pending, Abandoned)
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Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Issued, Pending, Abandoned)
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I hereby appoint Kenneth D'Alessandro, Registration No. 29,144; Timothy Brisson, Registration No.: 44,046; Michael Brandt, Registration No.: 39,119; Robert Hall, Registration No.: 39,209, Jonathan Velasco, Registration No.: 42,200, Michael Kerr, Registration No.: 42,722 and Victor Gallo, Registration No.: 41,768, as attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and certifies that it is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of an assignment, a copy of which is attached, from the inventor(s) of the patent application identified above.

Please send all correspondence and direct all telephone calls to:

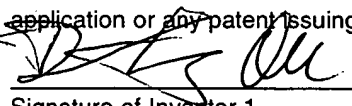
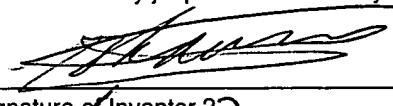
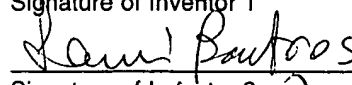
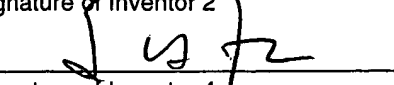
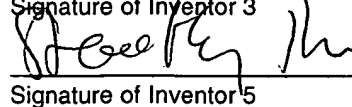
Jonathan Velasco  
Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 6149  
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Telephone (775) 586-9500

I, the undersigned, declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 1	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name
	Diheng		Qu
RESIDENCE AND CITY	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
	Santa Clara	California	Peoples Republic of China
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country
	1400 Bowe Avenue #505	Santa Clara	California
			Zip Code
			95051

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 2	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name	
	Kevin		Li	
RESIDENCE AND CITY	City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
	Milpitas	California	Peoples Republic of China	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country	Zip Code
	297 Fairemeadow Way	Milpitas	California	95035
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 3	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name	
	Sami		Boutros	
RESIDENCE AND CITY	City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
	Kanata Ontario	Canada	Canada	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country	Zip Code
	54 Shannondoe Circle	Kanata Ontario K2M 2H3	Canada	
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 4	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name	
	Seren		Fan	
RESIDENCE AND CITY	City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
	Palo Alto	California	United States	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country	Zip Code
	138 Bryon Street	Palo Alto	California	94301
FULL NAME OF INVENTOR 5	FIRST Name	MIDDLE Initial(s)	LAST Name	
	Steve		Truong	
RESIDENCE AND CITY	City	State or Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
	Saratoga	California	United States	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS	Number and Street	City	State or Country	Zip Code
	19580 Braemar Court	Saratoga	California	95070

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

	3/14/00		3/16/00
Signature of Inventor 1	Date	Signature of Inventor 2	Date
	3/21/00		3/15/00
Signature of Inventor 3	Date	Signature of Inventor 4	Date
	3/15/00		
Signature of Inventor 5	Date		


**ASSIGNMENT**

WHEREAS, we, Diheng Qu, a citizen of the Peoples Republic of China, residing at 1400 Bowe Avenue #505, Santa Clara, California 95051, Kevin Li, a citizen of the Peoples Republic of China, residing at 297 Fairmeadow Way, Milpitas, California 95035, Sami Boutros, a citizen of Canada, residing at 54 Shannonodoe Circle, Kanata Ontario K2M 2H3, Canada, Seren Fan, a citizen of the United States, residing at 138 Bryon Street, Palo Alto, California 94301 and Steve H. Truong, a citizen of the United States, residing at 19580 Braemar Court, Saratoga, California 95070 have invented "**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING FIREWALL PROCESSING**" for which we have executed application papers for a U.S. patent thereon, which was filed on March 3, 2000, serial No. not yet assigned; and

WHEREAS, Cisco Systems, Inc., a California corporation, having a place of business at 170 West Tasman Blvd. #D, San Jose, California 95134, is desirous of acquiring the exclusive right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to the Letters Patent to be granted and issued therefor in the United States of America and its territories and possessions, and all countries foreign thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, for a valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, we, Diheng Qu, Kevin Li, Sami Boutros, Seren Fan and Steve Truong do sell, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Cisco Systems, Inc., its successors and assigns, the full and exclusive right, title and interest in and to said invention, and in and to any and all Letters Patent to be granted and issued therefor, not only for, to and in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, but also for, to and in all other countries including all priority rights under the International Convention; and we hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue said Letters Patent to Cisco Systems, Inc., its successors and assigns, in accordance with this Assignment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF said Assignors have executed delivered this instrument on the respective dates noted below.

Date: <u>3/14/00</u>	 _____ Diheng Qu
State: <u>CA</u>	County: <u>SAN JOSE</u>
Subscribed and sworn to before me on the _____ day of _____, 2000	
_____ Notary Public	

Date: 3/16/00 [Signature]  
Kevin Li  
State: CA County: Santa Clara  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Date: 3/21/00 [Signature]  
Sami Boutros  
State: KANATA County: ONTARIO, CANADA  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Date: 3/16/00 [Signature]  
Seren Fan  
State: CA County: Santa Clara  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Date: <u>3/15/2000</u>	<u>Steve Truong</u> Steve Truong
State: <u>California</u>	County: <u>Santa Clara</u>
Subscribed and sworn to before me on the _____ day of _____, 2000	
_____ Notary Public	